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## Hydrocarbons

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nd were Soxhlet-extracted  
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These cyclohexane ex-  
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acers: a diaromatic fraction  
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4 and their alkyl derivatives.  
ne by evaporative concen-  
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on a 6.6 m x 3 mm o.d. glass  
h Supelcoport. Tempera-  
ows elution of PAH ranging  
, coronene) in approximately

Difficult-to-resolve PAH isomers which are separated with fairly good success  
include phenanthrene/anthracene, benz[a]anthracene/chrysene, and benzo[e]-  
pyrene/benzo[a]pyrene.

PAH concentrations are calculated by comparing GC peak areas with those of  
an external standard. Recovery corrections for losses of PAH in isolation and  
handling are estimated by liquid scintillation counting 0.1 volume aliquots of  
the fractions in 10 ml of scintillator solution prepared by dissolving 15 g of  
2,5-diphenyloxazole and 190 mg of 1,4-bis[5-phenyloxazole] benzene in 1 gal  
of reagent grade toluene.

## FLUORESCENT SPOT TEST FOR PNA DETECTION

The information in this section is based on:

*Evaluation of Sensitized Fluorescence for Polynuclear Aromatic  
Hydrocarbon Detection*, EPA Report 600/7-79-207, August 1979,  
prepared by T.R. Smith of TRW Defense and Space Systems  
Group for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The original fluorescence spot test was developed by Arthur D. Little, Inc. (53)  
under contract to the EPA and is based on the phenomenon of sensitized fluo-  
rescence. The objective of the effort of T.R. Smith was to determine if the  
test could be used as a screening aid for samples submitted for PAH analysis  
by gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS). The procedure can poten-  
tially provide a low cost screening technique to predetermine the presence of  
PAH.

## Spot Test Procedure

No preparation of the sample is required. The sample should be in a solution  
to allow easy application to the test substrate. Solids and gases can be analyzed  
with some modification of the application technique (53).

A Chromatovue ultraviolet cabinet (Model C-70) was used to expose the samples.  
The 254 nm lamp source was used. A 7.0 cm circular ashless Whatman No. 42  
filter was used as the support for the samples. The sensitizer used was naph-  
thalene at a concentration of 60  $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$  in methylene chloride.

The spot test is carried out as follows:

- (1) Draw three circles in pencil on a piece of Whatman No. 42 filter  
paper as close to one another as feasible.
- (2) Using a 10  $\mu\text{l}$  syringe, spot the filter paper with the sensitizer  
(naphthalene). 1  $\mu\text{l}$  of sensitizer should be spotted on the left-  
most circle and 1  $\mu\text{l}$  of sensitizer should be spotted on the center  
circle. The spots should not be allowed to overlap. The sub-  
strate should be supported so as not to touch any surface.
- (3) Allow the solvent to evaporate from the filter paper.
- (4) 1  $\mu\text{l}$  of sample is then applied to the rightmost and center circles.  
Again, allow the solvent to evaporate and do not allow the sub-  
strate to touch any surface until the solvent has evaporated.

- (5) The filter paper is placed in the Chromatovue cabinet.
- (6) Compare the spots visually with the unaided eye.
- (7) If the center spot (sample plus sensitizer) fluoresces brighter than the sensitizer spot (leftmost), the presence of PAH is suspected. Also, any significant difference in color between the sensitizer-only spot versus sensitizer-sample spot is also considered a positive indicator for PAH.
- (8) Samples which give positive results by the spot test should be submitted for GC/MS analysis to identify the source of the fluorescence.

#### Detection Limit and Sample Analysis

In order to determine the level of detection attainable with the equipment available, a set of standards were prepared and tested. Phenanthrene and benzo[a]pyrene were chosen as the test standards. Phenanthrene and benzo[a]pyrene were chosen because both are considered representative of the PAH likely to occur in combustion effluent samples.

Their differences in structure may also cause differences in their detectability by the PAH spot test. Additionally, the range of aromatic fused ring compounds detectable by GC/MS is covered by these two compounds and the presence of benzo[a]pyrene, because of its carcinogenicity, must be detectable by the spot test at low concentrations.

The levels of standards prepared and the results of the analyses are presented in Table 7.8. The limit of detection of the spot test is extrapolated to be approximately 100 pg for these two materials. That is, a 1  $\mu$ l sample containing 100 pg of PAH is easily detected. This observation differs by an order of magnitude from the detection limit of 10 pg previously reported (53).

Table 7.8: Results of Spot Test Analysis of Standards

| ..... Phenanthrene. .... |              | ..... Benzo[a]pyrene. .... |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Amount                   | Test Results | Amount                     | Test Results |
| 80 ng                    | Positive     | 490 ng                     | Positive     |
| 8 ng                     | Positive     | 49 ng                      | Positive     |
| 160 pg                   | Positive     | 147 pg                     | Positive     |
| 80 pg                    | Negative     | 98 pg                      | Negative     |
|                          |              | 49 pg                      | Negative     |

Source: EPA-600/7-79-207

The difference in the reported detection limit is probably due to the point at which the investigator decides to declare a significantly distinguishable difference in the fluorescent intensity of the sensitizer alone versus the sensitizer-sample spot. Since this decision is subjective, it was decided to choose a level that was easily discernable by personnel not familiar with the test.

A lower detection limit is achievable, but it would require the operator to make judgements based on subtleties of intensity and hue and would require extensive operator training and experience.

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Test Results

Positive

Positive

Positive

Negative

Negative

Another factor which must be taken into consideration when detection limits are compared is the ultraviolet lamp intensity. Any difference in lamp intensity will result in a difference of fluorescence intensity and, consequently, the detectable difference between the sensitizer-only and the sensitizer-sample spots would be concomitantly effected.

It is an accepted fact that lamp intensity varies with age and it is not unusual to encounter significant differences in lamp intensities in an apparatus such as the Chromatovue C-70. Differences in lamp intensity as a source of variation of the detection limit was not investigated as a part of this task.

### Results

A series of industrial samples which gave negative results for both the PAH spot test and GC/MS analysis were spiked with a known amount of benzo[a]pyrene (100 pg/ $\mu$ l) and retested by the spot test. As expected, the samples after spiking yielded a positive indication by the PAH spot test.

Over twenty samples from industrial sites have been tested by both GC/MS and the fluorescence spot test. A partial listing of these samples and their results are given in Table 7.9.

Table 7.9: Results of Spot Test Analysis of Samples from Industrial Sites

| Sample   | Spot Test | GC/MS    |
|--|-----------|----------|
| ..... Coke Oven Extracts .....                             |           |          |
| A  | Positive  | Positive |
| B  | Positive  | Positive |
| .. Combustion Effluent Samples (Commercial Oil Burner) ..  |           |          |
| A  | Negative  | Negative |
| B  | Positive  | Positive |
| C  | Positive  | Positive |
| .. Combustion Effluent Samples (Coal Fired Power Plant) .. |           |          |
| A  | Negative  | Negative |
| B  | Negative  | Negative |
| C  | Positive  | Negative |
| D  | Negative  | Negative |
| E  | Negative  | Negative |
| F  | Negative  | Negative |
| G  | Negative  | Negative |
| H  | Positive  | Negative |

Source: EPA-600/7-79-207

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Approximately 10% of the samples which gave a positive result of the spot test showed no PAH by GC/MS. As is illustrated, the spot test has a level of detection which is lower than that of GC/MS when the GC/MS is used in the traditional scanning mode. Taking this fact into consideration, it is not unreasonable to expect a small percentage of the samples to prove positive by the spot test and negative by GC/MS. But what is more important, is the fact that in all cases where the spot test gave negative results, the GC/MS also found no PAH. That is, no false negatives were encountered.

## PORTABLE FLUOROMETRIC MONITOR TO DETECT PNA

The information in this section is based on:

*Portable Fluorometric Monitor to Detect Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbon Contamination of Work Area Surfaces*, NTIS CONF-790855-2, 1979, prepared by D.D Schuresko of Oak Ridge National Laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy.

The need for instrumentation to monitor PNA buildup on workplace surfaces as, for example, results from aerosol condensation, has also been recognized (54)(55). Such instrumentation must be capable of: (a) functioning during actual plant operation in varied working environments; (b) detecting material spilled on different work surfaces, including machinery, plumbing, construction materials and on personnel and clothing; and (c) being easily and reliably operated by all plant personnel.

The fluorescence spotter described by D.D. Schuresko (U.S. Patent applied for) has these capabilities. This instrument, which consists of a hand-held optics unit connected via an umbilical cable to an electronics module, enables remote monitoring of work area surfaces at distances  $\leq 1$  m. The electronics module, which normally operates with ac power can also be operated on rechargeable batteries; thus the entire instrument plus battery pack is portable.

It is anticipated that portable fluorescence spotters will be used extensively to detect surface contamination in changing areas, lunchrooms, shops, control rooms and other "clean" areas in coal conversion facilities, and to monitor skin contamination of coal plant workers. The currently used method of detecting contamination is to turn off ambient lighting and scan the suspected area with a black light.

In contrast, the newly developed spotter (a) can be operated outdoors in direct sunlight or indoors in the presence of strong background illumination; (b) provides a quantitative measure of the amount of fluorescent material; (c) will discriminate between the fluorescence of organic materials and some inorganic compounds based on their fluorescence lifetimes; and (d) does not present a vision hazard to personnel.

The spotter induces and detects the fluorescence of PNA that characteristically absorb light in the 350 to 440 nm region of the spectrum and fluoresce with high efficiency in the blue-green region of the spectrum. Multiring heteroatom aromatic compounds, including acridines, are also detected, although they generally absorb light and fluoresce at longer wavelengths than do their pure hydrocarbon counterparts.

The spotter has been laboratory tested with pure compounds and with several coal and oil shale products and wastes. When operated in a laboratory area illuminated by fluorescent lighting, the spotter can typically detect 0.1  $\mu\text{g}$  of perylene (as a dilute solution in cyclohexane) located 50 cm distant. Considering that 10  $\mu\text{g}$  doses of several PNA will induce changes in the metabolism of cultured mammalian cells (56)(57), it is evident that the high sensitivity of the spotter is appropriate to its intended task.

## ECT PNA

Polynuclear Aromatic  
Surfaces, NTIS CONF-  
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In this regard, the spotter might prove to be particularly useful in quantitatively measuring PNA skin contamination caused by contact with coal-derived liquids, thus providing accurate data for correlation with the incidence of skin lesions.

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## ADDENDUM

## Laser Technique to Detect PAH

It was recently reported (U.S. Department of Energy, "Laser Technique to Help Detect Cancer-Causing Industrial Pollutants," *Energy Insider*, 3:21, October 13, 1980) that a new laser technique to identify PAH has been developed by scientists at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). The system can detect concentrations as low as one part per billion in a sample containing hundreds of chemicals. This is one thousand times more sensitive than high performance liquid chromatography used alone. The system also is estimated to cost ten times less than GC/MS systems of comparable sensitivities.

LLNL is using the technique on samples of fly ash from two coal-fired power plants in the Western United States to determine why the ash from one plant showed cancer-causing potential while the ash from the other did not.

Since the ash contains hundreds of chemical compounds, it is essential to separate them to find any differences. Using this laser technique, the PAH present in the fly ash can be separated and detected.